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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,217	12/16/2004	Edmundo Simental Rodriguez		7638

7590 05/09/2006  
Maria Erlinda C Sarno  
PO Box 1023  
Artesia, CA 90702

EXAMINER

HUYNH, KHOA D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3751

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/518,217

Applicant(s)

RODRIGUEZ, EDMUNDO  
SIMENTAL

Examiner

Khoa D. Huynh

Art Unit

3751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 December 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/16/04
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the couple having a reduced diameter from 10% to 20% less than the hose diameter as recited in claim 2, and the screw is attaching the tank to the bowl in the right side and guiding the cable through the ring as recited in claim 3 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Specification***

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the couple having a reduced diameter from 10% to 20% less than the hose diameter as recited in claim 2, and the screw is attaching the tank to the bowl in the right side and guiding the cable through the ring as recited in claim 3.

***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 1 and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities: claims 1 and 3 are not conform to the US practice (note: a claim should begin with a capital letter and with a period, see cited US patents). Appropriate correction is recommended.

4. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: the recitation "a couple" on line 2 should be changed to read --said couple--. Appropriate correction is recommended.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform to current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-3, as presently understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aaron (3280407) in view of Ferreyra et al. (6397404).

Regarding claim 1, the Aaron reference discloses a system for water discharge in toilet tanks. The system includes a valve (Fig. 1) having a flexible ringed hose (30), an outside threaded couple (at 18), a conic rubber gasket (constitute by the gasket next to element 48) to seal the tank, a nut (constitute by the element located on the underside of the tank 14), a bowl like gasket (constitute by the element located on the underside of and contacting the tank 14), a cable or wire (124), and a stick and handle (120) to pull the cable.

The Aaron reference DIFFERS in that it does not specifically include a band as claimed. Attention, however, is directed to the Ferreyra et al. reference which discloses a similar system for water discharge in toilet tanks. The system includes a band (74) for sealing the hose (70) to the couple (108). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the Aaron reference by employing a band, in view of Ferreyra et al., in order to clamp the hose to the couple especially

since the Aaron reference also discloses that a clamp may also be used, if required (col. 2, lines 6-7).

Regarding claim 2 (as best understood without support from the disclosure), the modified Aaron reference also DIFFERS in that it does not disclose that the couple having a reduced inner diameter from 10% to 20% as claimed. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ such reduced inner diameter for the couple since discovering an optimum dimension for an inner diameter involves only routine experiment or trial and error for one of skill in the art.

Regarding claim 3, even though the modified Aaron reference does not specifically show that the stick and handle (120) having a screw with a rod as claimed, it, however, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to recognize that the stick and handle would inherently includes a screw mechanism mounted to the tank for actuating the vale. The screw mechanism also includes a rod (at 120) with a slight angle along with a ring (constitute by the opening formed on element 120 when cable 120 attached to).

### ***Conclusion***

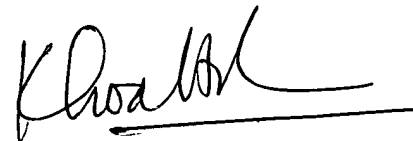
9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 3751

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khoa D. Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4888. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Khoa D. Huynh', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Khoa D. Huynh  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3751

HK  
05/05/2006